



# GRASSROOTS

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## **SD Section of SRM Annual Meeting**

The SD Section of the Society for Range Management has scheduled their annual meeting in Watertown on October 5-6 at the Elks Lodge. This year the SRM will hold a joint meeting with SD Soil and Water Conservation Society as well as the Professional Soil Scientists Association of SD. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about some of the research being performed from around the state and to learn more about these organizations. If you desire additional information, please contact Jessica Michalski in Hayti at (605) 783-3642 ext. 3.



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For more information or other events the **SOUTH DAKOTA GRASSLAND COALITION** is involved with, please contact Kyle Schell or visit the website: <http://www.sdgrass.org>

## SD Grazing School was a Success

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition held its annual grazing school the third week of September. This school was unique this year in that we held two schools back-to-back. This was done because of all of the increased interest in the school. More than sixty people graduated from the two schools. I would like to offer a sincere thank you to all of the folks who put forth the extra effort in order to make this school a success.

The first group I would like to thank is the planning committee, which consists of Stan Boltz-NRCS, Dave Steffen-retired NRCS, Roger Gates-SDSU, Ken Olson-SDSU, Chuck Pyle-US FWS, Wade Christensen-BIA, Dan Rasmussen-Rancher, Judge Jessop-SDGC, and Leroy Ness-SDGC. This outstanding group of individuals is responsible for the success of this school.

Many members of the planning committee also give a presentation during the school. Additional presenters I would like to recognize include: Terry Gompert-UNL, Jim Faulstich-Rancher, Terry Heck-NRCS, Mitch Fulkner-NRCS, Rick Bednarek-NRCS, Stacey Turgeon-NRCS, Tate Lantz-NRCS, and Shane Deranleau-NRCS. I would like to commend them on their level of expertise offered to the participants.



*Group photo of the first school*

The last group that I would like to thank is the organizations that made donations to the Grassland Coalition. These donations provide financial assistance for the school. Sponsors for this year's school include: Ducks Unlimited, Millborn Seeds, Kennebec Telephone, Cammack Supply, JC Ramsdell, Professional Alliance, Seed Exchange, Gallagher USA, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, Steffen Consulting, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and SD Game, Fish and Parks. Thank you to all who helped make this school a success!



*Pasture allocation group discussion during second school*

I would also like to remind everyone that there will probably be two schools again next year; however, anticipate both filling up again. I have started a list for next year's schools, so if you do have an interest in attending, please send me your information as early as possible.

## SDGC Annual Meeting

The SD Grassland Coalition is in the process of planning their annual meeting. We are currently considering holding the meeting at the AmericInn in Chamberlain. We are contemplating inviting a guest speaker to discuss estate planning. Additional information will be forthcoming.

## Controlling Canadian Thistles

*Eric Mousel, Range Livestock Specialist, SDSU*

Nearly everybody has problems with Canadian thistle in their pastures and control is a top priority for ranchers. With the very wet summer we had this year; Canadian thistles have begun preparing this fall for a banner year next spring. Fortunately, the period of October to early-November is one of the best times to use herbicides to control Canadian thistle.

If you had heavy infestations of Canadian thistles this year and didn't have time to get out and control them, walk out in those infested areas this month. With the already wet soil and recent rains, new growth has probably sprouted. Most Canadian thistle growth this fall will be small, in a flat, rosette growth form, and they are very sensitive to herbicides this time of year. Spaying thistles this fall will reduce problems next year.

Using Milestone or Grazon is probably your best bet for the money to control this species. If it gets late and you are not sure how effective herbicides will be, use Tordon 22K alone instead to utilize the lengthy soil residual that will continue to work next spring. Be sure to consult label directions for application as it is restricted by law to apply these herbicide families over standing surface water. Also be sure to avoid heavy spring grazing in pastures with a lot of Canadian thistle. Extra grass next spring will help grass stands crowd out new thistle growth.

A little preparation this fall will make Canadian thistle control a lot easier to control and pastures a lot cleaner next spring.

## Leopold Award Update

The Leopold Conservation Award nominations deadline was Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, and I am proud to announce that we have thirteen nominations from around the state. The Leopold Conservation Awards recognizes extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation, inspires other landowners through their example and helps the general public understand the vital role private landowners can and do play in conservation success. All of the nominations meet the criteria of being private citizens who have responsibility for land and possess the capacity, the aptitude, and the desire to improve natural habitats. These individuals will be evaluated based on responsible and sustainable land management, economics, innovation, overall land health, and community outreach and leadership. Selection of the winner from the outstanding nominees will be difficult. The selection committee is composed of leading conservationists from around the state. They will announce the finalist on October 10<sup>th</sup> with the winner being announced on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The Leopold Crystal and the \$10,000 cash prize will be presented at the Annual Cattlemen's Convention on December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Ramkota in Aberdeen. If you have not yet made plans to attend this convention, please do so. There will be many excellent speakers and trade show booths. The Grassland Coalition will also have a booth there, so please stop by. The Cattlemen's Convention begins at 8:00 am on December 1<sup>st</sup> and continues through the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hope to see you there and congratulations to all of the Leopold Conservation Award nominees!



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**Calendar of events:**

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
SD SRM Meeting	Oct 5-6	Watertown, SD	Jessica Michalski	605-783-3642
SD Cattlemen's Convention	Dec 1-2	Aberdeen, SD	SDCA	605-945-2333
SDGC Annual Meeting	December	Chamberlain, SD	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623

Please remit any comments, suggestions, or topics deemed necessary for further review to: Kyle Schell, SDSU Box 2170, Brookings SD 57007, [kyle.schell@sdstate.edu](mailto:kyle.schell@sdstate.edu), (605) 688-6623